

ENTOMOLOGY.—*Three new Neotropical flea beetles.* DORIS H. BLAKE, Arlington, Va.

Three Neotropical flea beetles of similar color pattern and representing three different genera are herewith described. All belong to obscure and little-known genera and had not been definitely placed in the U. S. National Museum collection. Two of them were with *Diabrotica pulchella* (Jacq. DuVal), a drawing of which is included (Fig. 3). Jacquelin DuVal originally described this as a *Phyllobrotica* (it is still listed as such in Blackwelder's Checklist), possibly because its color pattern resembled that of the well-known European beetle *Phyllobrotica quadrimaculata* (Linnaeus).

***Pseudogona subcostata*, n. sp.**

Fig. 4

About 6 mm in length, elongate oval, shining, very finely and obsoletely punctate, pale yellow, with the head and breast black, and on the elytra a wide basal and a preapical black band, the basal band having two elongate yellow spots near the suture. Antennae pale with joints 7 and 8 deeper brown and joints 9 to 11 paler yellow.

Head entirely dark, the interocular space one-half width of head, eyes prominent and large, occiput rounded, polished, and with a few fine punctures and two larger punctures on each side near the eye connected by a faint groove; frontal tubercles well marked, interantennal area narrowly produced into a carina extending down to labrum. Antennae not half the length of the beetle, third joint a little shorter than fourth, and fourth a little shorter than fifth, remainder subequal and gradually becoming a very little shorter. The basal six joints yellow, 7 and 8 brown, 9 to 11 paler yellow. Prothorax entirely pale, minutely punctate, about one-third wider than long, smoothly convex, without depressions, with a rounded margin, the frontal angles not wide as in *Disonycha*, or obliquely cut as in *Systema*, but small; the basal angles with a small tooth. Scutellum small and entirely dark. Elytra broader in apical half, not very convex, without depressions, shining, and with numerous fine costae, not extending the entire length and between these, rows of fine confused punctures; pale yellow with a piceous black wide basal band not extending to the middle of the elytra or to

the margins, and having on each elytron an elongate pale spot near the scutellum, a piceous band also behind the middle, the apex pale. Body beneath pale except the black breast, legs pale. Anterior coxal cavities closed, posterior femora enlarged, tibiae on hind feet spurred, claws appendiculate. Length 6.4 mm; width 3 mm.

Type, female, U.S.N.M. no. 63136, collected by Schild and Burgdorf at Tukurrique, Costa Rica.

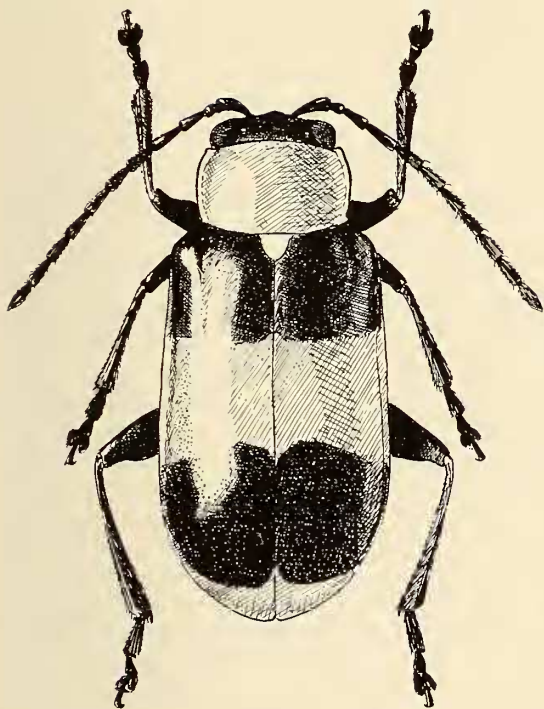
Remarks.—H. S. Barber has labeled this "Not a *Diabrotica* [which it strikingly resembles and with which it was placed] but a female Halticid, ?*Pseudogona panamensis* var. Jac." Jacoby's description of *P. panamensis*, however, differs in that there are three dark elytral fasciae instead of two, as well as different punctuation. In *P. militaris* Jacoby from Panama, the basal joints of the antennae are all black and the elytra have a shallow transverse depression below the base and are opaque and not shiny. In Jacoby's description of *P. pallida* (also from Tukurrique, Costa Rica, the type locality of the present species) the color pattern is quite different, and the tibiae and tarsi are more or less black. In none of the species is there any mention of the faint elytral costation so apparent in the present species.

It is curious that although these species are all listed in the Zoological Record, Heikertinger in the Junk Catalogue omits four species of *Pseudogona*, and Blackwelder in his Checklist omits two species of this same genus. Jacoby described all six species that have comprised the genus up to the present, namely: *P. panamensis*, *chiriquensis*, *argentinensis*, *discoidalis*, *militaris*, and *pallida*. He characterized the genus as being similar to *Systema* but with differently shaped antennae and with the thorax having no groove. He stated that it differs from *Ozygona* in having a narrower, subquadrate thorax.

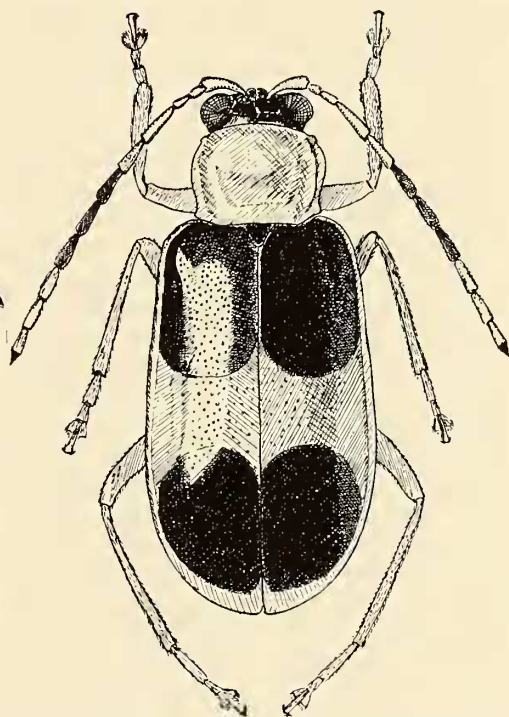
***Nephrica macrops*, n. sp.**

Fig. 2

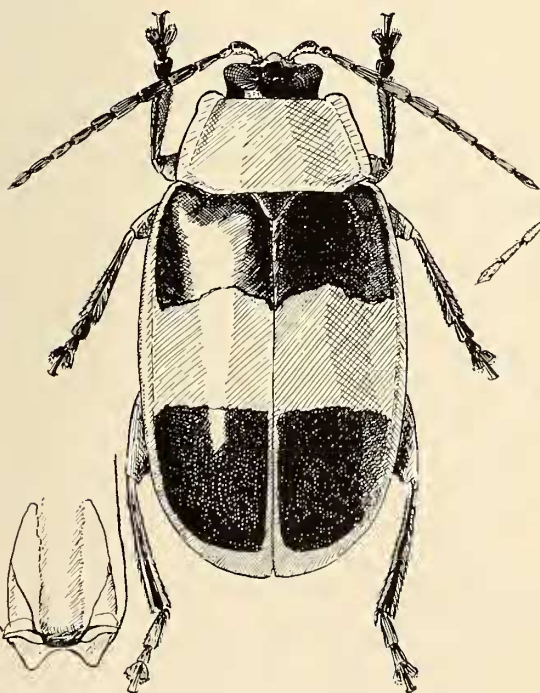
About 6 mm in length, ovate, moderately shiny, pale yellow with the upper half of head and mouthparts, the antennae, tibiae and tarsi dark, the elytra pale with a broad basal band and another below the middle not quite extending



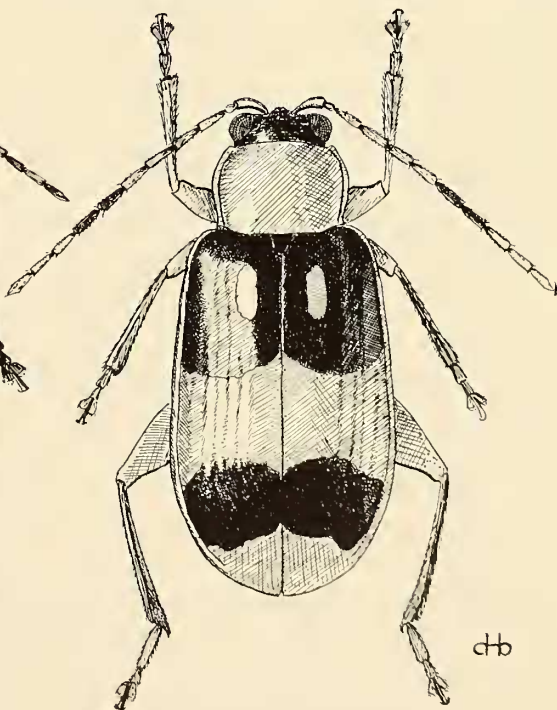
1. *Pseudodisonycha turquinensis*



3. *Diabrotica pulchella* JacqDuVal [Cuba]



2. *Nephrica macrops*



4. *Pseudogona subcostata*

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to the apex, these bands dark with a metallic blue lustre. Eyes elongate and emarginate.

Head with large elongate eyes, somewhat emarginate on the inner side but not so markedly as in *N. inornata* Jacoby, and on the vertex separated by one-third the width of the head; on either side near the eye a large puncture or fovea, and from this a line of fine punctures extending down to the clearly marked frontal tubercles, the upper part of the head otherwise polished and piceous in color; carina produced and extending down the front, the lower front pale with the mouthparts brownish. Antennae not half the length of the beetle, deep brown except the two basal joints which are paler, third joint not as long as fourth, joints 4, 5, and 6 broad, the following joints becoming gradually thinner. Prothorax twice as wide as long with wide explanate margin and broadly rounded anterior angles, not very convex, shining, impunctate, pale yellow. Scutellum dark. Elytra broad, with wide explanate margin, shining, impunctate, pale yellow with a wide dark basal band and an equally wide band below the middle not reaching the apex, these bands having a dark blue metallic lustre, the margin being always pale. Body beneath entirely pale, the femora pale reddish brown, tibiae and tarsi deepening to piceous; the hind tibiae grooved, the anterior and middle tibiae with a sharp ridge in the middle of a shallow channel. Hind tibiae with a spur. Claws appendiculate. Length 6.2 mm; width 3.2 mm.

Type, male, U.S.N.M. no. 63137, collected "in banana trash from Panama."

Remarks.—Jacoby's description of *N. boliviana* agrees with this except that in his beetle the undersurface is entirely dark and the elytral markings are metallic green. This is the second species of the genus to be described from north of South America, the other, *N. inornata* Jacoby, also from Panama, being entirely pale with kidney shaped eyes.

***Pseudodisonycha turquinensis*, n. sp.**

Fig. 1

About 6 mm in length, oblong oval, shining, nearly impunctate, pale yellow, the head,

antennae, legs, except the basal half of femora, black, a deep blue wide transverse band at base of elytra and another equally wide below the middle, not reaching the apex.

Head with interocular space more than half its width, a large fovea on each side of vertex near eye with a few finer punctures about it; frontal tubercles bulging; a somewhat produced carina between antennal sockets extending down the short lower front; head entirely dark except for the pale labrum and the pale neck beneath the mouthparts. Antennae black, stout, third joint shorter than fourth, which is longest, remainder subequal and a little shorter than fourth. Prothorax not twice as broad as long with rounded sides and narrow margin; a small tooth at apical and basal angles; disk moderately convex with a slight median basal depression; entirely pale yellow. Scutellum pale yellow. Elytra with prominent humeri and deep intra-humeral sulcus, shining, very finely and not densely punctate; a wide deep blue band at base and also one below the middle, the latter not reaching the apex. Body beneath pale with the basal half of all femora pale, shining, a few pale hairs on the abdomen, coxal cavities open. Hind femora not as much thickened as in *Oedionychus*; a spur on hind tibiae; claws appendiculate. Length 6.4 mm; width 3 mm.

Type, female, U.S.N.M. no. 63138, collected by S. C. Bruner and C. H. Ballou on Pico Turquino, altitude 4,000–5,000 feet, Oriente Province, Cuba, July 20, 1922.

Remarks.—Because the markings resemble so much those of *Diabrotica pulchella* (Jacq. Du Val), this beetle was long concealed in the collection with that species. It is difficult to place in a genus. The hind femora while not greatly enlarged nevertheless are those of an alticid. The tibiae with the ridge on the upper side and the spur at the end, and the head with the fovea near the eye so characteristic of *Disonycha*, place it near that genus. The thorax, however, is not so broad as in *Disonycha* and does not have the wide anterior angles. There is unfortunately no male, and I have doubtfully assigned it to the genus *Pseudodisonycha* Blake.